

What Shall We Call It?

Mother sat down at the typewriter and fed the paper into the machine. Right away Rachel, age four, came and hung over her mother's shoulder. Big sister Judy, thirteen, kept on playing with the baby.

"Are you going to write another chapter in my book, Mother?" asked Rachel.

"Yes, honey. If baby Jonathan doesn't yell too loud. And if big sister can keep him happy. How about sitting near me and helping me? You know we are co-authors."

"What's a co-ther, Mother?"

"It means you are a writer of the book, too. Today I want to decide a very important question. What shall we call our book?"

Rachel drew her dark eyebrows together so Mother knew she was thinking very hard.

"What do you think of calling it *The Book of Baby Ethics?*" offered Mother.

"Oh, Mother!" said Judy, who was listening

in. "Nobody Rachel's age would know what you mean by 'ethics.'"

"Do you?" asked Mother.

Judy blushed. "No, I don't. And I'm thirteen!"

"What's another word for that word we don't know, Mother?" asked Rachel. "A baby word."

"Another word for 'ethics'? How about 'behavior'?"

The children shook their heads. "Too big a word too. It is hard to find a baby word for 'ethics.' You almost need to describe it. I have it! We could call the book *Baby, Be Good.*"

"Oh, Mother! I'm not a baby. I don't like that name. Really, I don't like either of those titles because they have the word 'baby' in them. Jonathan's the baby. I'm not."

Mother sighed. "I'm sorry. I keep forgetting how very grown-up you are." And Mother put an arm about her co-author.

"Why not call it *Toddler Talks?*" suggested big sister.